

REMARKS

Applicant has received and carefully reviewed the Office Action mailed on August 28, 2006. Claims 1-20 remain pending. Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-10, 12-14, 16, 17 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,478,407 to Dorison et al.

It appears that Dorison et al. disclose a system having a sheathing or netting stretched across a number of support members. Outer cables 17 are included, as pointed out in the Examiner's rejection. However, the outer cables 17 do not themselves support solar panels, instead, the outer cables 17 support the sheathing or netting. The sheathing or netting, as highlighted by Dorison et al., leads to difficulties with wind and snow, for example, and gives rise to additional structural regulation and problems as discussed by Dorison et al. at column 1, line 58 to column 2, line 23.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite:

1. A system for supporting a solar panel array, the system comprising:
 - two pairs of columns, each pair having a first column and a second column;
 - a first cable suspended between the first columns;
 - a second cable suspended between the second columns;
 - a plurality of panel receivers, each adapted for receiving a number of solar panels, the panel receivers being secured to each of the two cables.

As can be seen, a plurality of panel receivers are recited, the panel receivers being secured to each of the two cables. The result is a structure that is simpler than anything that appears to be shown in Dorison et al., and, additionally, the result is a structure that does not appear to be disclosed by Dorison et al. It is believed that, through this amendment, the rejection is overcome with respect to claim 1 and dependent claims 2, 4-6 and 8.

Claim 9 has been amended to recite:

9. A system for providing shelter and producing electricity, the system comprising:

- two pairs of columns, each pair having a first column and a second column;
- a first cable suspended between the first columns;
- a second cable suspended between the second columns;
- at least two panel receivers each configured for receiving a number of solar panels, the panel receivers attached to and supported by the two cables;
- a number of solar panels received by each panel receiver;
- wherein the columns are tall enough to allow a desired activity to occur beneath the panel receiver; and
- wherein the cables are sufficiently long to allow the desired activity to occur between the pairs of columns.

Again, a plurality of panel receivers is recited, the panel receivers being secured to each of the two cables. For reasons similar to those stated above with reference to claim 1, and other reasons, claim 9, and dependent claims 10 and 12-14, are believed to be patentable over the cited reference.

Claim 16 has been amended to recite:

16. A system for supporting a solar panel array, the system comprising:

- first, second, third and fourth anchor points;
- a first support cable suspended between the first and second anchor points;
- a second support cable suspended between the third and fourth anchor points; and
- a plurality of solar panel receivers each adapted to receive a solar panel, the solar panel receivers being secured to the first support cable and the second support cable.

Again, a plurality of solar panel receivers is recited, with the solar panel receivers being secured to the first support cable and the second support cable. For reasons similar to those stated with respect to claim 1, and other reasons, claim 16 and dependent claim 17 are also believed to be patentable over the cited reference.

Claim 19 has been amended to recite:

19. A method of supporting a solar panel array comprising:

- providing a first support cable and a second support cable;
- disposing the first support cable and the second support cable such that the cables are generally parallel in their respective axial directions;
- providing a plurality of solar panel receivers each adapted to receive a solar panel and adapted to receive the first support cable and the second support cable; and

securing the solar panel receivers to the first support cable and the second support cable.

As with claims 1, 9 and 19, a plurality of solar panel receivers are now recited, this time in the step of “providing.” In claim 19, the step of securing the solar panel receivers to the first support cable and the second support cable is also recited. For reasons similar to those stated with respect to claim 1, and other reasons, claim 19 is believed to be patentable over the cited reference.

In paragraph 4 of the Office Action, claims 3 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dorison et al. in view of EP 0373234 to Stein. Stein was cited to illustrate an anchoring device secured to the ground. The rejection does not address how or why one would remove the netting or sheathing suggested by Dorison et al. Therefore, it is believed that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established.

In paragraph 5 of the Office Action, claims 7, 15 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dorison in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,415,759 to Copeland et al. Copeland et al. was cited to illustrate certain design aspects of a cable truss structure. The rejection does not address how or why one would remove the netting or sheathing suggested by Dorison et al. Therefore, it is believed that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established.

In paragraph 6 of the Office Action, claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dorison et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,397,869 to Jennings. After careful review, and in light of the above amendment, Applicants respectfully disagree.

Claim 20 has been amended as follows:

20. A method of providing a sheltered space, the method comprising:

disposing a solar panel array above the space by the use of a number of support cables, the solar panel array providing at least some shade and shelter to the sheltered space;

disposing a mister on the solar panel array;

generating electricity using the solar panel array;

generating a cooling effect in the sheltered space through the use of the mister, using at least some of the electricity to operate the mister.

It appears that Jennings suggests a fan, which operates to remove stale air and reduce humidity from within a tent. The removal of humidity is highlighted several times, including column 1, lines 18-24 and lines 45-47, column 2, lines 60-61, column 3, lines 45-46, and column 4, lines 54-55. It has not been asserted that Jennings would suggest a mister. Indeed, it appears that placing a mister as recited would be contrary to the aim of Jennings, which repeatedly emphasizes removing excess humidity, rather than adding it with a mister.

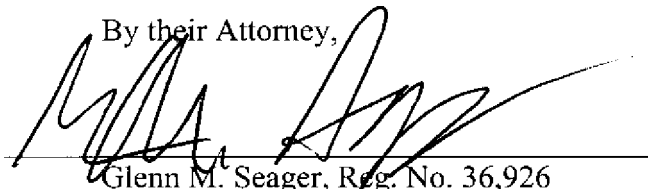
In light of the above, it is believed that the rejection of claim 20 is overcome.

Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested. It is believed that each of claims 1-20 is in condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests issuance of a Notice of Allowance. If a telephone conference would be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at 612-677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: Feb. 28, 2007

By their Attorney,



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